

# Uvbie language

**Uvbie** (Uvwie, Evrie, or Evhro) is a Niger Congo language spoken by the Uvwie people of southern Nigeria. It is classified alongside Urhobo, Okpe, Isoko and Eruwa as co-ordinate members of South-western Edoid branch of Proto Edoid language<sup>[3]</sup> spoken by the Uvwie people of southern Nigeria.

## Phonology

The phonemic inventory of Uvwie, amongst other things, consists of seven vowels.<sup>[4]</sup> Although earlier studies identified nine vowels in two harmonic sets, /i e a o u/ and /ɪ ɛ a ɔ ʊ/.<sup>[5][6]</sup>

The consonant system is somewhat conservative, and nearly the same as that of Urhobo. The only significant differences are the loss of ϕ, ɣ, and of the distinction between *l* and *n*: these alternate, depending on whether the following vowel is oral or nasal. /r, ʊ, j, w/ also have nasal allophones before nasal vowels.

Uvbie	
Evrie	
Native to	Nigeria
Region	Delta State
Ethnicity	Urhobo
Native speakers	20,000 (2000) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Volta–Niger<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>YEAU<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Edoid<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Southwestern<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Uvbie</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	evh
Glottolog	uvbi1238 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/uvbi1238</span> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Labio-velar	Glottal
Nasal	m		ɲ			
Plosive	p b	t d	c ɟ	k g	kp gb	
Fricative	f v	s z	ʃ dʒ			h
Trill		r				
Flap		ɾ				
Approximant	ʋ	l [n]	j		w	

## References

1. Uvbie (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/evh/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Uvbie" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/uvbi1238). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

3. Elugbe, B. O. 1989. A comparative Edoid: Phonology and lexicon. Port Harcourt: University of Port Harcourt Press.Pp 26

4. Ekiugbo, P. O. 2016. The sound system of Uvwie. M. A. Thesis, University of Benin

5. Omamor, A. P. 1973.

6. Archangeli & Pulleyblank, 1994. *Grounded phonology*, p 181ff

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